



# MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

August 10, 2007

## *News from the Chief*

The number of drug/vice arrests and seizures at the precinct level has risen dramatically this year, yet another clear indicator that police department employees are working harder than ever before to enhance neighborhood safety and quality of life.

Through July, our precinct-based Crime Suppression Units have made a total 2,976 arrests, a 23% increase over the first seven months of 2006. CSU detectives have recovered 254 guns (a 37% increase), seized 94 vehicles (a 43% increase), seized nearly 40 pounds of cocaine (a 51% increase), and 1,148 pounds of marijuana (a 57% increase).

The outstanding police work of East Precinct Officer Marty Reed is a classic example of the dedication and attention to detail in the field. What started as a traffic stop by Officer Reed late last week in a known drug area of East Nashville ultimately led to the seizure Tuesday morning of 500 pounds of marijuana from a South Nashville apartment. I am grateful to Officer Reed and his colleagues on the East Flex Team, along with officers and professional support staff throughout the police department, for all that you do, particularly in the stifling heat.

As many of you know, recidivism among drug suspects is a significant issue, as half of the drug defendants we arrest have at least one prior drug conviction. The state, however, is getting tougher on felony drug offenses, particularly those committed within the 1,000 foot boundary of a Drug Free Zone. Assistant District Attorney John Zimmermann sent me the following information regarding a recent opinion of the Attorney General:

This opinion explains that felony drug offenses committed within 1,000 feet of the boundary of a Drug Free Zone requires that the sentence be served at 100%; that is, no probation, no parole.

Drug Free Zones include a 1,000 foot perimeter from the boundary of all public and private schools, AND NOW INCLUDES the same distances from all public and private preschools, public and private child care centers/agencies, public parks, and public recreation centers.

The law requires that the defendant commit the felony offense of possession, delivery, sale, or manufacturing of drugs, or conspiracy to commit those offenses, within the drug free zone. It doesn't require that the offender be arrested or searched in the drug free zone, but that he committed the offense while inside the drug free zone. The courts have held, for example, that traveling through a drug free zone while committing a felony drug offense meets the requirements of the statute. Therefore, it is important for officers to note in their reports when that is observed.

The best way to alert prosecuting attorneys that a felony drug offense occurred within a Drug Free Zone is to include that information in the Affidavit portion of the arrest warrant, the only offense document usually available to the prosecutor at the general sessions court level. Having this information available to the prosecutor prevents an incorrect disposition of a case, is a strong incentive for a defendant to cooperate (if needed) in the prosecution of other related defendants, and insures that these drug offenders will serve their entire sentence before being released back on the streets.

Internet search engines ordinarily help our office to locate the distance between schools and the offense when we prepare an indictment, but it is usually the arresting/investigating officer who knows about the locations of preschools, parks, and child care centers--many times the internet fails to record child care centers. Metro Mapping employees can quickly advise officers if the offense occurred within the 1000 foot zone in those cases where the distance cannot be easily determined (a printed map is not necessary at the general sessions level). David Kline with Metro Mapping is our point of contact to verify this information in cases where the distance is close to the 1,000 foot boundary. In the event of a trial our office will later coordinate GPS locations on a map for a jury.

With the recent passage of the felons in possession of guns statute, coupled with the recent amendments to the Drug Free Zone law, law enforcement now has valuable tools to remove many offenders from the streets for longer periods of time.

Many areas in Nashville fall within the 1,000 foot boundaries referenced by General Zimmermann. Please keep his suggestions in mind when conducting drug investigations.

Thank you very much for all that you do to make Nashville a safer place.

### **Update on Commander Andy Garrett**

Good news regarding Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett's surgery for the removal of a cancerous tumor from his right tonsil. Tests revealed no additional signs of cancer and Commander Garrett will not have to undergo chemotherapy.

As irrepressible as ever, Commander Garrett expects to be back sooner than later. He thanks you for your emails, cards, and phone calls. His voice isn't completely back yet, but he is checking emails on a regular basis.

Please keep Commander Garrett in your thoughts and prayers as he undergoes daily radiation treatments for the next seven weeks.

## **Happenings**

Officer Danita Marsh was awarded the 2007 Middle Tennessee Police Officer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police August 3.



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Maryville Police Chief and Awards Chairman Tony Crisp, and Officer Danita Marsh**

Metro police helicopter pilot Sergeant James Johnson has been awarded the Airborne Law Enforcement Association's (ALEA) Captain Gus Crawford Memorial Aircrew of the Year Award for his efforts to apprehend the man who opened fire on Officer Danita Marsh last October.



**Pictured (l-r) are Chief Serpas, Sgt. Johnson, and Captain Carter**

North Precinct Detective Mike Roland received the Paul Scurry Award from the Madison Chamber of Commerce for his outstanding work in the AM/PM Market Murders, December 12, 2006. The suspects shot and killed the store owners and wounded a customer.

Detective Roland's experience and dedication resulted in the arrests of three suspects one day after this senseless homicide.

The award is named for Officer Paul Scurry who was fatally wounded on May 17, 1996 while attempting to serve outstanding warrants on a criminal suspect.



Members of Metro Nashville Police Explorer Post 911 competed against eleven other posts in the State Explorer Competition in Knoxville July 22-25.

Nick McCluskey, 20, Nick Burn, 17, Michael Russell, 16, Nicholas Annekan, 16 Eric Harvey, 16, and Ben Dorschel, 15, won first prize in the High Risk Traffic Stop, Traffic Accident Investigation, and Unknown Call categories. The team finished second in Crime Scene Investigation and Explorer Captain Nick McCluskey won Top Handgun Shooter.



**Pictured (l – r) are Chief Serpas, Officer Cynthia Quirouette, Nick McCluskey, Eric Harvey, Ben Dorschel, Nicholas Annekan, and Officer Brad Nave.**

Nashville's Fugitive Safe Surrender Program proved to be an overwhelming success. A total of 561 persons peacefully and voluntarily surrendered themselves at Galilee Baptist Church August 1-4.

Saturday saw the highest daily total of the four days, as 237 individuals walked into the church to address the outstanding charges against them.

The daily surrender tally was: Wednesday-94, Thursday-92, Friday-138, Saturday-237. Of the 561 people surrendering, only seven percent (38 individuals) were arrested due to the seriousness of their charges. Twenty percent of the 561 (115 individuals) had outstanding felony matters.

# *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase*

## **Do you have talent?**

We are currently in the planning stages of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Talent Showcase. This year, the event will be sponsored by the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The proceeds from this event will be split between the NCADV and Danita Marsh. The event will be held at the Wild Horse Saloon on Monday, October 22, 2007, and will be open to the public. Entertainers must be law enforcement employees (sworn or civilian). This is a great opportunity to raise money for a good cause.

This is not a contest, but a celebration of talent. No admission fee. Donations accepted at the door.

If you are interested and have talent (or know someone who has talent) please contact Captain Marlene Pardue at [marlene.pardue@nashville.gov](mailto:marlene.pardue@nashville.gov), or phone 862-7501 or 862-7329.

### **The Precinct News**

#### **Hermitage**

A man robbed a business on Old Hickory Boulevard. A short time later Officer Virginia Carrigan responded to a burglary call on Burning Tree Drive and took a suspect into custody that matched the description of the robbery suspect. He was positively identified as the man who robbed Sun Tan City at gunpoint. He was in possession of a handgun and is charged with aggravated robbery.

Bike Unit officers arrested a man for possession of cocaine for resale within 1,000 feet of a school zone.

Also arrested on the same day was another man who was charged with possession of cocaine for resale within 1000 feet of a school zone, driving on a revoked license, possession of drug paraphernalia, and evading arrest.

Seized were three grams of cocaine, one gram of marijuana, \$1,098 cash, and one vehicle.

#### **South**

Alert actions by Officer SungJun Park led to the arrest of three women suspected of kidnapping a fourth woman and forcing her to lure Hispanic men to their car where the men

would be robbed at gunpoint. All three suspects are charged with aggravated robbery and kidnapping. Additionally, one of the women was charged with felon in possession of a handgun.

## **East**

Outstanding police work by officers assigned to the East Precinct's Flex Team led to a 500 pound marijuana seizure and the arrest of one of the city's larger marijuana distributors.

Flex Officer Marty Reed and Officer in Training Jason Wong stopped a car for running the stop sign at North 2nd and Meridian Streets. The driver had information about neighborhood drug activity which ultimately led to the arrest of Joseph Edward Fugh, 28, and the recovery of 500 pounds of marijuana from his apartment at the Mission Brentwood complex on Enclave Circle. The marijuana has a wholesale value of at least \$400,000.

Detectives believe that Fugh received shipments of marijuana from Mexico and would then sell it in pound quantities to Nashville area drug dealers.



**Pictured (l-r) are Derek Keeler, Sgt. Pat Shea, Marty Reed, Bruce Guldeman, Jason Wong, Lt. Justin Pinkleton, and James King. (Not pictured: Shane Fairbanks)**

Crime Suppression Unit detectives stopped a car during a Terry stop stemming from surveillance near Riverside Drive. The suspects fled, but their getaway car was found a short time later abandoned on a green at the Shelby Golf Course with drugs and cash still inside.

Seized were 190 Dilaudid pills, six grams of marijuana, and \$48,742 cash. One suspect was charged with possession of Schedule II drugs for resale. A second suspect was identified and is being sought.

## **North**

Fast footwork by off-duty North Precinct Sergeant Scott Billingsby resulted in the arrest of a Fairview man for trying to break into Billingsby's marked police car parked outside his West Nashville condominium.

As Billingsby returned home in his personal automobile, he saw a 1990 Toyota Corolla parked suspiciously close to the condo. When Billingsby looked at his police car, he saw a man trying to break into the trunk with what appeared to be bolt cutters. Upon seeing Billingsby, the suspect fled on foot into a wooded area. Billingsby gave chase and soon captured Paul David Barnes, 34, of Bethshears Road in Fairview. Barnes was found to be carrying several .38 caliber bullets in his pocket and a .38 caliber revolver was recovered from his car, along with burglary tools. The police car received considerable damage from the burglary attempt; however, Barnes was not able to gain entry.

Barnes is a convicted burglar who, at the time of his arrest, was free on bond on a July burglary charge. He is now charged with unlawful weapon possession, evading arrest, resisting arrest, possession of burglary tools, vandalism, and motor vehicle burglary.

## **West**

Outstanding community policing occurred after 16 children, all under the age of 13, were involved in a fight at the Edgehill public housing development. Detectives Twana Chick and James Capps, and Officers Michelle Jones and Zach Bevis, organized an event that involved the children, their parents, and other community members. Through activities and games, the children were encouraged to handle their differences peacefully.

## **Blue Notes**

### **Specialized Investigations Division**

Captain Todd Henry

The Specialized Investigations Division (SID) consists of five sections and covers a wide range of investigations including Narcotics, Gangs, Gambling/Prostitution, Terrorism, Hate Crimes, Tech/Equipment, Executive Security, Project Safe Neighborhood, and Crime Stoppers. SID also processes all drug seizures and maintains a fleet of over 190 vehicles including vehicles for Precinct CSU's, FLEX, and SRT.

Also, at least once a week, the Specialized Investigations Division (SID) leads Operation Safer Streets wherein they partner together with officers and supervisors representing each of



the six precincts and some outside agencies to implement strategies to combat gang crimes and activities in various areas of Nashville.

I will briefly describe the five sections of SID:

1. Seizure/Equipment Section:

This section has two units, the Seizure Unit and the Equipment Unit.

This section is responsible for all electronic devices used by the division as well as equipment issued to the Precinct CSU's. They also maintain and copy all recorded video and audio made by this division. They maintain our Mobile Surveillance Platform "Skywatch". They are also responsible for the logistic and set-up of the overt cameras located throughout the city.

2. The Security Threat Section:

This section is home to the Executive Security Unit, Project Safe Neighborhoods, and Crime Stoppers. They also follow-up and assist Precinct Investigations Units on all reported possible Hate Crimes.

3. The Vice/Gang Enforcement Section:

This section covers two main areas, the Gambling/Prostitution and Gangs.

The Lieutenant of this section is also the primary overseer and scheduler of Operation Safer Streets (OSS).

4. The Counter-Terrorism Section:

This section is responsible for any investigation that involved possible terrorism or a possible terrorism nexus which includes both domestic and foreign terrorism issues. They are the main liaison with the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) for the MNPd.

5. The Narcotics Section:

The Narcotics Section is composed of three units.

The Narcotics Unit is tasked with investigations involving mid to upper level narcotics cases. They also liaison with the DEA, ICE, FBI and other federal partners in the war against drugs.

The 20th Judicial Drug Task Force is a cooperative effort between the District Attorney's Office and the MNPd. They work long term narcotics cases usually involving a wire tap assisted investigation.

The Interdiction Unit are officers who wear a uniform and drive cars that are distinguishable as police vehicles but do not have a light bar on top of the vehicle. They mainly work the interstates making traffic stops in an effort to detect drugs and/or drug proceeds that are coming through Nashville.

### **Congratulations:**

Officer Doug Atwood, MDHA Task Force, and his wife, Bridgett, are the proud parents of Max, born July 28.

Officer Jeff Brown, West Precinct, and his wife, Crystal, are the proud parents of Mason Scott Brown born August 5.



### **Condolences:**

Mr. Clayton Lankford, father of Commander Rick Lankford, South Precinct, passed away August 6.

Joyce Carter, grandmother of Officer Vickie Dills, Hermitage Precinct, passed away recently.

**FYI:**

Monday, September 3, is Labor Day. The jail dockets will be held in Courtroom 3A. There will be no other dockets held on this day.

Tuesday, September 4, through Friday, September 7, is the General Sessions Court judges' conference. The following courts will continue to operate during the week of September 4-7:

- Courtroom 1A Misdemeanor Citation
- Courtroom 3A for Jail Dockets AND Order of Protection Docket
- Treatment Court 4D Wednesday, September 5, 1 p.m.

There will be **NO** Mental Health, Civil, Traffic or Environmental Court all week.